

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 ACDA-19 SS-20 NSC-10 H-03 IO-14

OIC-04 OMB-01 AEC-11 DRC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 TRSE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01

AECE-00 /150 W

----- 008008

O 221745Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4216

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 0992

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-82

TAGS: PARM, MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR DATA

VIENNA FOR USDELMC

REF: VIENNA 1139

1. AT FEB 19 MEETING, CHAIRMAN MBFR WORKING GROUP (MBFR WG) INDICATED THAT CHAIRMAN DATA SUPPORT SUBGROUP WAS WORKING ON RESPONSE TO AD HOC GROUP (AHG) MESSAGE TO NAC ON NATO GROUND FORCES IN NGA (SEE VIENNA 1139). MISSION HAS JUST RECEIVED COPY OF DRAFT REPLY TO AHG. IF APPROVED BY CAPITALS, REPLY WILL BE REFERRED BY CHAIRMAN MBFR WG TO SYG FOR DISPATCH TO AHG. CAPITALS ARE REQUESTED TO CLEAR DRAFT MESSAGES BY SECRET

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FEBRUARY 26. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON'S REACTION TO DRAFT MESSAGE TO AHG BY FEB 26TH.

2. TEXT OF DRAFT MESSAGE FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT.

1. YOUR CONCERN OVER THE DISPARITY BETWEEN CURRENT MANNING FIGURES AND THOSE RELEASED TO THE PRESS IN THE CONTEXT OF MBFR IS UNDERSTOOD. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THE ORIGINAL NATO FIGURE OF 777,000 WAS OBTAINED FROM NATIONAL INPUTS UPDATING THE NATO FORCES DATA BANK RECORDS TO PERIOD END 1972. THIS TOTAL FIGURE WAS IDENTICAL TO THAT SUBMITTED TO NATO BY THE US IN OCTOBER 1973, HOWEVER THE INITIAL US ESTIMATE PROVIDED NO BREAKDOWN BY COUNTRY. ON RECEIPT OF THIS BREAKDOWN IT WAS NOTED THAT THE NAO AND US FIGURES WERE BASED ON DIFFERENT ASSUMPTIONS AND THAT THERE WERE DISSIMILARITIES BETWEEN COUNTRY TOTALS. CAPITALS WERE THEN REQUESTED TO SUBMIT THEIR GROUND FORCES ACTUAL STRENGTHS AS AT AUGUST 1973 BASED ON THE SAME ASSUMPTIONS AS USED IN CALCULATING THE US ESTIMATES. THIS RESULTED IN THE NATO FORCE FIGURE BEING INCREASED TO 786,000 DUE MAINLY TO THE INCLUSION OF FORCES IN BERLIN. LATE IN 1973 A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES ALTERED THEIR PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED TOTALS. THE BONN AUTHORITIES EXPLAINED THAT THE PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED FIGURE OF 318,000 DID NOT CONTAIN GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL ON DUTY OUTSIDE THEIR OWN PARTICULAR SERVICE ELEMENT IN EITHER THEIR REPLY TO DPQ (73) OR THE INPUT UPDATING THE FRG DATA BANK PRINT-OUT. THEY FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT FLUCTUATIONS IN DRAFTEES CAN ACCOUNT FOR A DIFFERENCE OF UP TO A FEW THOUSAND PERSONNEL. INCLUDED IN THE NEW TOTAL OF 341,000 ARE PERSONNEL IN CENTRAL MILITARY AGENCIES, INTEGRATED HQS, MOD BONN AND PERSONNEL SERVING OUTSIDE FRG BUT WITHIN THE NGA AS WELL AS PERSONNEL PARTICIPATING IN MILITARY CAREER COURSES AND NON CONSCRIPTS ON CIVIL CAREER COURSES. THE NETHERLANDS TOTAL FOR MANPOWER INCLUDES 7,000 PERSONNEL ON "SHORT LEAVE" WHICH FOR MBFR PURPOSES ARE CONSIDERED AS NOT BEING ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL. THE US FIGURE OF 193,000 REFLECTS THE PEACETIME AUTHORISED STRENGTH. THE LATEST AMENDMENTS BROUGHT THE NATO FORCES MANNING LEVEL FOR PERIOD AUGUST 1973 TO A NEW TOTAL OF 803,000 AS DETAILED IN MILSTAM(MBFR)-31-73(REVISED). HOWEVER, IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT THE REASON FOR THIS HIGHER FIGURE

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IS DUE TO SOME COUNTRIES USING A BASIS OF COUNTING DIFFERENT TO THAT USED BY NATO FOR MBFR PURPOSES - NATO USING "ACTIVE FORCE PERSONNEL" MANNING LEVELS. CONSEQUENTLY TOTAL MANPOWER FIGURES SHOWN IN NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS, CIRCULATED FOR OTHER THAN MBFR PURPOSES, ARE LIKELY BE HIGHER THAN THE NATO MBFR FIGURES. THIS IS TO A CERTAIN EXTENT UNAVOIDABLE AND CAPITALS ARE AWARE THAT SUCH FIGURES COULD BE USED BY THE OTHER SIDE TO CHALLENGE THE NATO AGREED FIGURES. WHEN PUBLISHING NATO MBFR DTA, FIGURES BASED OTHER THAN ON "ACTIVE FORCE PERSONNEL" WILL INCLUDE AN EXPLANATORY FOOTNOTE SUCH AS IN MILSTAM(MBFR)-31-73. WE WILL KEEP THE AD HOC GROUP INFORMED AS NATO AGREED DATA ARE REFINED AND UPDATED.

2. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT DRAFT NATO FIGURES ARE SUBJECT

TO PERIODIC FLUCTUATIONS DUE TO THE INDUCTION AND RELEASE OF CON-
SCRIPTS. FURTHERMORE, THE CONSTANT RE-EXAMINATION OF NATIONAL
FIGURES NECESSITATES OCCASIONAL CHANGES TO PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED
DATA. DATA PUBLISHED BY NATO REPRESENTS THE ACTIVE DUTY MANNING
LEVEL OF A SPECIFIC FORCE AT A GIVEN TIME PERIOD WHEREAS THE PUBLISHED

FIGURE OF 777.000 REPRESENTS THE GENERAL STRENGTH LEVEL OF ACTIVE
DUTY PERSONNEL. IF IN DUE COURSE NATO AGREES THAT THE PUBLISHED
FIGURE OF 777.000 SHOULD BE REVISED THE AD HOC GROUP WILL BE
CONSULTED AHEAD OF TIME.

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 0992

3. IN ANSWER TO THE REQUESTS AS PER YOUR MESSAGE PARAGRAPH
FOUR: DATA FORWARDED TO AHG RELATING TO GROUND FORCES MANPOWER IN
NGA WILL INCLUDE DATA FOR EACH COUNTRY INCLUDING FRANCE AS WELL AS
NATIONAL FORCES IN BERLIN. CONCERNING THE TWO SETS OF DATA WE WOULD
GREATLY PREFER RETAINING THE PRESENT BASIS OF COUNTING, I.E. COUNTING
"ACTIVE DUTY" PERSONNEL. TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY DATA REGARDING
PEACETIME MANNING LEVELS FOR WHICH FUNDS HAVE BEEN AUTHORISED WOULD
POSE A PROBLEM AS THESE MANNING LEVELS MAY OR MAY NOT BE FUNDED DE-
PENDING ON THE PROSPECT OF OBTAINING ALL THE DRAFTEES OR RECRUITS
REQUIRED TO FILL THEM. WE FURTHER BELIEVE, THAT THE ANNUAL COUNT AS
AT 31 DECEMBER PROVIDES, FOR MOST NATIONS, A REASONABLE
REPRESENTATION OF, ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL MANNING LEVELS OVER THE
CALENDAR YEAR. INSTEAD OF ASKING NATIONS TO FORWARD MANNING LEVELS

AS AT 30 JUNE EACH YEAR, WE WOULD RATHER HAVE MODS ADVISE US OF ANY
SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THEIR PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ACTIVE DUTY MAN-
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NING LEVELS AS AND WHEN THEY OCCUR, BE THEY DUE TO DRAFT INTAKES
AND RELEASES OR AS A RESULT OF A CHANGE IN NATIONAL POLICY, AND WE
INTEND TO ADOPT SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION SUBJECT TO THE CONCURRENCE
OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES WHICH WE WILL SEEK SEPARATELY.

3. MISSION COMMENT: PARA 3 OF DRAFT TEXT DOES NOT PROPOSE TO
ANSWER QUESTIONS ON GROUND FORCES MANPOWER (PARA 4 OF VIENNA
1139) IN SAME FASHION AS REQUESTED. CHAIRMAN DATA SUPPORT
SUBGROUP HAS TOLD USNATO INFORMALLY THAT HE BELIEVES MANY NATO
COUNTRIES CANNOT PROVIDE ACCURATE DATA ON QUOTE PREACETIME
MANNING LEVEL FOR WHICH FUNDS HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED END QUOTE
FOR REASON OUTLINED IN PARA 3 OF DRAFT TEXT. CHAIRMAN DOES
NOT ANTICIPATE REQUESTING NATIONAL CAPITALS FOR MANPOWER DATA FOR
END-1972 AND END-1973. HE MAINTAINS END-1972 DATA IS
PROVIDED IN COUNTRY 1973 SUBMISSIONS TO NATO FORCE PLANNING
DATA BASE AND END-1973 DATA IS BEING FURNISHED IN 1974
SUBMISSIONS TO NATO DATA BASE.

RUMSFELD

SECRET

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